



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

September 27, 2017

Colonel Jason A. Kirk
District Commander, Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CESAJ-DE
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Subject: Senate Bill 10 Implementation

Colonel Kirk:

I would like to thank you and your team for the dedication and hard work in response to Hurricane Irma, and most recently the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) efforts in the Caribbean Islands affected by Hurricane Maria. As our agencies continue to work on addressing the human health and safety concerns associated with the impacts of Hurricane Irma, its aftermath serves as a reminder of how important it is for us to continue to expedite Everglades restoration efforts. Our mutual interest in completing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) storage features, as highlighted by the Governor and Florida Legislature this year, will only serve to ensure future generations will not be impeded by the constraints we contend with on the landscape today.

With regard to your August 31, 2017 letter, I wholeheartedly agree that a cooperative state-federal planning effort is optimal for ensuring our collective success. On August 1st, the District began project planning efforts in anticipation of jointly developing a Post Authorization Change Report (PACR), identified as "Course of Action (COA) 1" in your letter. The District remains committed to developing the PACR and is equally committed to helping the Corps overcome any hurdles to participation in this effort.

As part of Senate Bill 10, the Florida Legislature provided funding that could be leveraged to ensure the Corps participates in the timely development of the PACR, under COA 1, and its delivery to Congress consistent with the requirements set forth in state law. However, should the Corps be in a position where committing considerable resources to support this planning effort are unachievable given certain constraints, these funds could be used to ensure Corps support on addressing federal policy and program compliance with the District's development of the PACR, consistent with COA 4 in your August 31st letter. I would ask that you give these COAs further consideration so that we may expedite planning efforts.

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The District stands resolute in our commitment to CERP and our partnership with the Corps and we stand ready to offer our help in achieving the timeframes and storage features set forth in Senate Bill 10. As the District and the Corps proceed, cooperation to evaluate the approach necessary to obtain authorization for this increased storage will be vital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Marks', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ernie Marks
Executive Director

EM/mbh